

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A computer system for customizing form elements under development in a form building application, comprising:

a form builder component configured to receive an identification of a user of the form building application, the form building application providing a graphical user interface for manipulating a set of form elements under development, the form elements including global attributes of the form including the layout of the form, the form building application configured to display the set of form elements separate from the form, the form elements indicating the authorization for the user to develop the form element, and to enable access to the user for developing a subset of the form elements according to authorization rules, the authorization rules permitting the selection of form elements that are not geographically adjacent; and

an access manager component configured to determine the authorization rules associated with the user's authorization to develop the set of form elements.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the identification of the user is based on login information.
3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the authorization rules are determined via a lookup table associating the user identification with the authorization rules for the user.
4. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein the authorization rules include settings that identify the subset of the form elements which are viewable and/or changeable.
5. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for customizing form elements under development in a form building application, comprising:

in response to receiving an identification of a user of the form building application,

the form building application providing a graphical user interface for manipulating a set of form elements under development, the form elements including global attributes of the form including the layout of the form;

determining authorization rules associated with the user's authorization to develop the set of form elements;

displaying the set of form elements separate from the form, the form elements indicating the authorization for the user to develop the form element; and

enabling access to the user for developing a subset of the form elements according to the authorization rules, the authorization rules permitting the selection of form elements that are not geographically adjacent.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the identification of the user is based on login information.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the authorization rules are determined via a lookup table associating the user identification with the authorization rules for the user.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the authorization rules include settings that identify the subset of the form elements which are viewable and/or changeable.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for customizing an electronic form including form elements under development, comprising:

displaying a set of form elements separate from the electronic form, the form elements indicating the authorization for the user to develop the form element;

responsive to a command by a user to change an element of the form under development, retrieving a permission list from a lookup table, the permission list identifying access rights for developing a plurality of form elements contained in the form, the form elements including global attributes of the electronic form including the layout of the electronic form, and the permission list permitting the identification of form elements that are not geographically adjacent;

comparing an identifier associated with the user to the access rights for the form element to be changed; and

rejecting the command unless the access rights associated with the user's identifier permit the user to change the form element.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the command by the user to change the form element includes selecting in a form building application a node representing the form element.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the access rights are defined for form elements representing a form's corporate identity.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the access rights are defined for form elements representing a form's interface to an application program.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the access rights are defined based on at least one of user id, job title, department code and position in the corporate hierarchy.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

giving authorization to all electronic form elements to a first user of the electronic form;
and

for each successive user of the electronic form giving authorization to all electronic form elements to the successive user that have not yet been edited.

15. (Currently Amended) A form editing method in a computer system, comprising:

when a form document is opened by a document editor of the computer system,
identifying a role of an editing user;

when a user's role meets a first condition, providing a first toolset in the document editor that permits the user to change form layout and document styles of the form document,

when a user's role meets a second condition, providing a second toolset in the document editor that permits the user to change form elements of the form document, and

otherwise, providing a third toolset in the document editor that permits the user to change other features of the form document, and

~~editing the document according to user commands entered via the respective toolsets
and storing the edited document in the computer system,~~

wherein the first and second conditions are mutually exclusive.

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16 (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the form building application is configured to display only the set of form elements that the user is authorized to modify.